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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 28 June 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the dangerous deterioration of the situation in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex) and the attached appendix.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex and appendix circulated as an official document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

"Statement of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the dangerous deterioration of the situation in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina

"The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expresses utmost concern in the wake of the dangerous deterioration of the situation in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina caused by constant offensive activities launched by the Muslim-Croat forces. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects the Security Council to undertake appropriate measures without delay in order to eliminate consequences of such further negative developments that can adversely affect the peace process in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina. At this crucial juncture, the Security Council has the primary responsibility and obligation not to allow that this true chance to resolve the conflict in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina by peaceful means, be missed. Should that, however, be the case, the conflict would inevitably escalate with unforeseeable consequences.

"The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers the ongoing phase of negotiations towards the resolution of the crisis caused by the civil war in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina, to be of crucial importance. Active participation of the major international factors - United Nations, European Union (EU), the Russian Federation and the United States, in the search of a lasting political solution, acceptable to all three sides to the conflict, raises hopes that this tragic civil war will soon be ended. Thus necessary conditions would be created also for the resolution of some other important issues in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

"The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects the present favourable momentum to be fully utilized and is actively endeavouring to make its concrete contribution towards that end. Guided by its desire that durable peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina be achieved as soon as possible, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has supported recent agreement between the warring parties in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina not to engage in any offensive military operations or other provocative actions. However, the reaching of an agreement on a comprehensive and durable cease-fire would be a convincing proof that all sides to the conflict are oriented towards lasting and just peace and a political solution to the crisis in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Regrettably, the events following 10 June 1994, the date when the agreement came into effect, indicate that all sides in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina do not wish to accept a peaceful solution. The creation of the Muslim-Croat federation in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina fuelled ambitions of the radical Muslim leadership in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina to persist with the war option. Relying on the support of the unprecedentedly biased media, based on fabrications, as well as on the overwhelming backing of certain international circles, the Muslim-Croat side has been abusing the agreement to openly prepare for a large-scale military offensive, as has been confirmed by UNPROFOR reports. These reports indicate, inter alia, that Muslim-Croat forces

have been receiving large quantities of the most sophisticated arms without any impediments despite the existing arms embargo. All these activities of the Muslim-Croat side, which include regrouping of their forces and other military activities, in violation of the agreement, are most energetically condemned by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

"The regrouping of the Muslim-Croat forces and constant stepping up of the level and intensity of combat activities with a view to provoking the continuation of the war, represent a flagrant violation of the agreement and can seriously jeopardize all efforts invested so far towards peace in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina. Lately, Muslim-Croat forces have been undertaking major offensive activities against the positions of the Bosnian Serbs, as well as against the cities along almost all confrontation lines, which has resulted in a huge loss of civilian lives and extensive material destruction.

"However, despite all that, it is indeed encouraging that the Bosnian Serb forces so far have exercised restraint in responding to the Muslim-Croat offensive activities, thus preventing the current military operations in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina from escalating into a much larger-scale conflict.

"The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia wishes to reiterate that lasting peace in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina can only be reached through negotiations, and calls upon the international community to exert pressure on those who violate the cease-fire and demand that they immediately end military activities and without delay embrace peace as the sole option."

APPENDIX

"Since the warring parties in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina signed an agreement not to engage in any offensive military operations or other provocative actions, i.e. since it entered into effect on 10 June 1994, the Muslim army of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina has violated the Agreement on countless occasions. The Muslim forces constantly provoke by launching artillery attacks on the positions of the Army of the Republic of Srpska (RS) as well as on civilian targets.

"In the same period, cease-fire violations have been registered on a daily basis:

"- The town of Brcko has been shelled from the direction of Bosanska Bijela;

"- The Serb positions have been constantly attacked in the region of Petrovo Selo and Seona, from the eastern suburb of Vozuca, from west and north-west of Banovici direction;

"- Western suburbs of Vozuca and villages to the north-east of this locality have been attacked from the direction of Zavidovici and Maglaj;

"- Vis (south of Kalesija), a major tactical facility of the Army of the RS, has been under attack from the direction of Kalesija;

"- The entire territory and the units of the Army of the RS in the region of Vlasic, Komar and Srbobran have been under attack from the direction of Turbe, Travnik and Bugojno.

"In the same period, in violation of the Agreement, subversive and terrorist groups' infiltration in the ranks and the rear lines of the Army of the RS, attacking civilian facilities and population, has been registered.

"It is particularly indicative that major military formations of the Muslim Army and Croatian Council of Defence (HVO) of the former Bosnia and Herzegovina have been relocated to the north and south of the corridor in Posavina. At the same time, regular troops of the Croatian Army have been amassing on the left bank of the Sava River in the region of Zupanja-Slavonski Brod. The main thrust of the Second Muslim corps from Tuzla has been grouped to the south of the corridor towards Brcko, under direct command of the operative group from Bosanska Bijela (equivalent of 5 brigades and 6 independent battalions comprising 18,000 men and 25 tanks and 50-60 artillery pieces with calibre of over 100 mm).

"The forces of the Second Corps have also been grouped towards Doboj and Modrica. They are under the direct command of operative group "Gracanica" (equivalent of 5 brigades and 2 independent battalions comprising 11,000 men, 20 tanks and 30-40 big calibre artillery pieces). The Muslim operative group "South" has been attacking towards the town of Teslic from the region of Tesanj.

"The forces under the Command of the Third Muslim Corps from Zenica, have been regrouping from the direction of Zeljezno Polje and Maglaj towards Vozuca and Teslic.

"The units of the Seventh Corps from Travnik, as the main force, and a portion of the forces from the Third Corps, have been attacking Serbian villages under Vlasic and Komar as well as Srbobran by a long-range artillery.

"Regrouping, enforcement and supply of new weapons systems, particularly long range multi-barrel rocket launchers, are also indicative.

"There is irrefutable proof that signs and symbols of UNPROFOR have been abused (in the facility of 'Sumarija' in Sarajevo, two helicopters and in the major barracks of the Muslim forces in Zenica, three helicopters have been repainted in the UNPROFOR colours). Those helicopters have been used to supply arms and military equipment and to transport forces towards the positions of the Army of the RS.

"It was also established that not only Muslim forces but also the forces of the HVO have been relocated from the region of Capljina, Siroki Brijeg and Tomislavgrad towards Kupres, as well as the 111th HVO brigade in the region of Zepce.

"In Orasje bridgehead in the Republic of Croatia (north of the Posavina corridor), the forces of the HVO, comprising 10,000 men have been grouped. In the same period they were reinforced with a few battalions of newly drafted men.

"All above instances of cease-fire violations resulted in loss of civilian life and destruction of property, particularly in the region of Brcko, east and west of Vozuca, in the suburbs of Teslic, in Doboj, Srbobran and the neighbouring areas during which the Muslim forces occupied also a few Serbian villages.

"The representatives of UNPROFOR have been officially informed of all those activities. They had an opportunity to witness on the ground that the conduct of the Muslim forces had been highly inappropriate and in violation of the agreement. The UNPROFOR representatives gave assurances to the Army of the RS that they would duly report to their superiors."